



- In this Issue:
- PPD Employee pickup truck injury
 - Quantitative fit testing for earplugs
 - Subcontractor safety
 - New multiple outlet strip available
 - Pedestrian/bicyclist road safety
 - Doh! Photos of the Month
 - PPD June Injuries

PPD’s News to Live By

July 2013

[PPD ESH Newsletter Archives](#)

PPD Employee Pickup Truck Injury

An employee was injured while attempting to swing out of the back of a government pickup truck, using the top bar of the pipe rack attached to the bed of the truck. The top bar detached from the pipe rack, and the employee fell backwards. The employee hit his right upper arm and back, causing an abrasion and contusion. The employee was treated with first aid only.

Signage has been added to truck rack stating “Removable Support—May Be Loose” to warn others of this hazard. Employees should never swing off/out of vehicles.



Quantitative Fit Testing for Earplugs



Recently the Fermilab Medical Office brought in a company named Workplace Integra. They specialize in hearing conservation and health data management. Workplace Integra has a tool called INTEGRAfit that is used for quantitative fit testing of earplugs. The fit tester can accurately measure the noise reduction rating (NRR) that the earplugs are providing the user. Every ear-plug lists the NRR on the packaging, but in many cases the user is not properly installing the earplug or it is not the right fit for their ear.

The PPD ESH group borrowed this tool and they were able to try it out on some of the employees around the division. A few of the employees that were sampled were surprised to find out that they were installing the ear plugs improperly. This decreases the efficiency of the ear plug by as much as half or more of the NRR listed on the packaging.



To learn more on how to properly use earplugs, please click on this link: http://www-esh.fnal.gov/CourseHandout_Mat/earplug.pdf

Subcontractor Incidents in 2013



So far this year, the lab has had 4 safety incidents involving subcontractors.

- 1) In January 2013, a Fermilab electrical subcontractor was using a leased mobile generator. The generator had an internal equipment fault, resulting in equipment failure. The fault was contained behind the steel enclosure of the generator. An investigation concluded that the likely cause of the failure was due to a loose bolt behind the steel panel. It is believed that the nut worked loose during the generator's transport to Fermilab, then the bolt likely contacted the bus cabinet and caused the fault.
- 2) During his lunch period, a Fermilab employee was biking on the bike path past the IARC construction site. A water hose had been lain across the bike path. When his bicycle hit the water hose, his bike slid from under him, causing him to fall and suffer a broken clavicle and dislocated shoulder. A subcontractor had placed the hose across the bike path (connecting it to a hydrant across from the CDF trailers and extending to the IARC construction site). After the incident, a new location for the hose connection was found, eliminating the obstruction to pedestrians and bicyclists.
- 3) In April 2013, a lift truck maintenance subcontractor was driving the truck outside of the Lab 5 entrance (without a load). The left rear tire and rim came off the truck unexpectedly. The subcontractor was not injured. In February 2013, the truck's left rear tire was flat, so it was repaired. An analysis of the incident found that the subcontractor felt rushed to get the truck back into service, and that the nuts and bolts were either torqued excessively during the February repair, or defective materials were used. The investigation also revealed that subcontractor management emphasized schedule needs over doing a good job.
- 4) Also in April 2013, the MINOS elevator door was malfunctioning. The elevator subcontractor was called to repair. Upon subcontractor arrival, all personnel in the MINOS hall were evacuated so work could be performed. During the work, a tech that was stationed outside of the elevator cart heard a loud noise. The top elevator door had dropped down, causing the bottom door to fall down the elevator shaft. The door itself was damaged, caused damage to a light housing at the bottom of the elevator shaft and while falling damaged a communications and 110V power cable.



If you work with subcontractors, don't hesitate to ask questions. Don't rely on the subcontractor's technical expertise. If you're not sure about anything, ask them to walk you through the job they are doing. Review the hazard analyses submitted, and provide your input when necessary or requested. Conduct periodic field checks to verify the subcontractor is in compliance with the subcontract requirements (including ESH requirements). After the work is completed, review the work and the HA. Were there any opportunities for improvement or Lessons Learned?



New multiple outlet strip with 25 foot cord available soon in the stockroom

It should be well known that multiple outlet strips are not to be plugged into extension cords (or vice versa). For those situations where a multiple outlet strip is needed, but no outlet is nearby, the stockroom will soon be carrying a [multi-outlet strip that has a 25-foot cord](#). It has an 8-outlet metal case, 15A circuit breaker and 3900 Joule surge suppression.

Pedestrian/Bicyclist Road Safety

It is summer, and the weather is great for walking/running and bicycling. However, thousands of pedestrians and bicyclists are injured in traffic crashes each year in the United States. In 2009, [111 pedestrians](#) and [20 bicyclists](#) were killed in the state of Illinois alone.

Utilizing the following safety tips will help prevent you from being injured while walking/running/biking.

Pedestrian safety tips:

- Use sidewalks where available. If no sidewalk is available and you must walk on the road, keep as close to the outside edge of the road as possible. In two-way traffic, pedestrians are to walk facing oncoming traffic (this gives you the ability to see approaching traffic, and the opportunity to take evasive action if necessary).
- Make yourself more visible to drivers. Dress in light colors and wear reflective material.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing to make sure they see you.
- Cross at marked crosswalks or intersections.
- Always obey traffic signals.
- Carry a flashlight if walking at night.

Bicyclist safety tips:

- Always wear a bicycle helmet.
- Find a safe place to ride (younger children should ride on the sidewalk).
- Follow the rules of the road when riding your bike in the street/road.
 - ◊ Stay on the right side of the street/road.
 - ◊ Obey the street signs and traffic lights.
 - ◊ Never ride between cars.
 - ◊ Give pedestrians the right-of-way.
- Make yourself more visible to drivers—wear reflective clothing and use a headlight if riding at night.

Additional information can be found in the following:

- Illinois [Bicycle Rules of the Road](#)
- [Illinois Rules of the Road](#), beginning on page 32—pedestrian rules



The “Doh!” Photos of the Month



Thanks to John Kyle for submitting this photo!

PPD June Injuries

6/24/2013—Employee was placing tablecloths on tables at the Kuhn barn, she stepped back, but mis-stepped, causing her to hit her head on a partition/counter. Suffered an abrasion to the head. First aid only.